

# ALESSANDRA CASSAR

## Curriculum Vitae

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### ADDRESS:

University of San Francisco  
Department of Economics  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

2015- present            Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, University of San Francisco.

2009-2015                Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of San Francisco.

2003-2008                Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of San Francisco.

2001-2003                University of California Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, University of California, Santa Cruz.

### OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

2019-present            Director of Econ Lab Without Borders.

2017-present            Member of the Executive Committee of the Economic Science Association (ESA).

2003-2013                LEEPS Lab. (Learning and Experimental Economics Projects of Santa Cruz), University of California, Santa Cruz.

### EDUCATION:

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
Ph.D.	International Economics	University of California, Santa Cruz	2001
M.S.	Applied Econ. and Finance	University of California, Santa Cruz	1998
M.A.	Economics	Universita' Bocconi, Milano, Italy	1996
B.A.	Economics	Universita' degli Studi di Parma, Italy	1995

### RESEARCH INTERESTS:

- ♦ Laboratory and field experiments
- ♦ Evolutionary origins of preferences and their role in development
- ♦ Gender and female empowerment
- ♦ Effects of wars and natural disasters on behavior
- ♦ Networks and social capital
- ♦ Microfinance and saving

**RESEARCH****JOURNAL ARTICLES:**

- ◆ “Raising Achievement Among Microentrepreneurs: An Experimental Test of Goals, Incentives, and Support Groups in Medellin, Colombia”. Paulina Aguinaga, Alessandra Cassar, Jennifer Graham, Lauren Skora, and Bruce Wydick. 2017. Forthcoming in *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 2019.
- ◆ “War Increases Religiosity”. Joseph Henrich, Michal Bauer, Alessandra Cassar, Julie Chytilová, & Benjamin Grant Purzycki. *Nature Human Behaviour*, Vol. 3, 129–135, 2019.
- ◆ “Financial Exclusion in Developed Countries: a Field Experiment Among Migrants and Low-income People in Italy”. Giorgia Barboni, Alessandra Cassar, Timothee Demont. *Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 39-49, 2017.
- ◆ “Trust, Risk, and Time Preferences After a Natural Disaster: Experimental Evidence from Thailand”. Alessandra Cassar, Andrew Healy and Carl von Kessler. *World Development*, Vol. 94, pp. 90–105, 2017.
- ◆ “Competing for the Benefit of Offspring Eliminates the Gender Gap in Competitiveness”. Alessandra Cassar, Feven Wordofa, and Y. Jane Zhang. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, PNAS*: May 10, 2016, vol. 113, no. 19, 5201-5205.
- ◆ “Institutional Quality, Culture, and Norms of Cooperation: Experimental Evidence from Italy and Kosovo”. Alessandra Cassar, Giovanna D’Adda and Pauline Grosjean. Forthcoming, *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 57, 2014.
- ◆ “War’s Enduring Effects on the Development of Egalitarian Motivations and In-group Biases.” Michal Bauer, Alessandra Cassar, Julie Chytilová and Joseph Henrich. *Psychological Science*, Vol. 25(1) 47 –57, 2014.
- ◆ “Do Risky Borrowers Really Invest in Risky Projects? A Test of Stiglitz and Weiss with Bolivian Microfinance.” Alessandra Cassar, Bruce Wydick and Eliana Zeballos. *The Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 50(2) 276–287, 2014.
- ◆ “Legacies of Violence: Trust and Market Development.” Alessandra Cassar, Pauline Grosjean and Sam Whitt. *Journal of Economic Growth*, Vol. 18 285–318, 2013.
- ◆ “Social Preferences of Ex-Combatants: Survey and Experimental Evidence from Postwar Tajikistan.” Alessandra Cassar, Pauline Grosjean and Sam Whitt. Forthcoming in: *The Economics of Conflict: Theory and Empirical Evidence*, edited by Karl Wärneryd, MIT Press, 2013.
- ◆ “Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard in Joint Liability Loan Contracts: Evidence from an Artefactual Field Experiment.” Giorgia Barboni, Alessandra Cassar, Arturo Rodriguez Trejo and Bruce Wydick. *Journal of Economics and Management*. Vol. 9(2), 2013.
- ◆ “Trust and Trustworthiness in Networked Exchange.” Alessandra Cassar and Mary Rigdon. *Games and Economic Behavior*, Vol. 71(2) 282–303, 2011.
- ◆ “A Laboratory Investigation of Networked Markets.” Alessandra Cassar, Daniel Friedman and Patricia Higinio Schneider. *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 120, Issue 547, 919–943, 2010.
- ◆ “Does Social Capital Matter? Evidence from a Five-Country Group Lending Experiment”. Alessandra Cassar and Bruce Wydick. *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 62(4) 715-739, 2010.

- ◆ “Cheating in Markets: A Laboratory Investigation.” Alessandra Cassar, Daniel Friedman and Patricia Higinio Schneider. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 72(1) 240-259, 2009.
- ◆ “Spillovers and Growth in a Local Interaction Model.” Alessandra Cassar and Rosella Nicolini. *The Annals of Regional Science*, Vol. 42(2), 2008.
- ◆ “The Effect of Social Capital on Group Loan Repayment: Evidence from Field Experiments.” Alessandra Cassar, Lucas Crowley and Bruce Wydick. *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 117, Issue 517, F85, 2007.
- ◆ “Coordination and Cooperation in Local, Random and Small World Networks: Experimental Evidence.” Alessandra Cassar. *Games and Economic Behavior*, Vol. 58(2) 209-230, 2007.
- ◆ “Contagion of Financial Crises under Local and Global Networks.” Alessandra Cassar and Nigel Duffy. In *Agent-Based Methods in Economics and Finance: Simulations in Swarm*, edited by Francesco Luna and Alessandro Perrone, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001.

**BOOK:**

- ◆ *Economics Lab: An Intensive Course in Experimental Economics* - by Daniel Friedman and Alessandra Cassar with contributions from Reinhard Selten and others. Routledge Advances in Experimental & Computable Economics, Routledge, 2004.

**BOOKS CHAPTERS:**

- ◆ “Gender, Behavior, and Women’s Economic Empowerment”. CGD Background Paper. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development. Alessandra Cassar and Elizabeth Katz. 2016.
- ◆ “Violence, Conflict-Related.” Alessandra Cassar, Pauline Grosjean and Sam Whitt. Forthcoming, *Encyclopedia of Law and Economics* edited by Jürgen Backhaus. id: 438460.
- ◆ “Contagion of Financial Crises under Local and Global Networks.” Alessandra Cassar and Nigel Duffy. In *Agent-Based Methods in Economics and Finance: Simulations in Swarm*, edited by Francesco Luna and Alessandro Perrone, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001.

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**

- ◆ “Wanting to Control”. Alessandra Cassar and Mary Rigdon.
- ◆ “Cooperation and Competition in Monogamous and Polygynous Households: Experimental Evidence from Sierra Leone”. Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, Alessandra Cassar, Bethany Gerdemann, Cristina Moya, and Yaniv Stopnitzky.
- ◆ “The Competitive Woman”. Alessandra Cassar and Y. Jane Zhang.
- ◆ “Improvement in Sanitary Products for Menstruation and Female Outcomes”. Alessandra Cassar, Anjali Limbu, Alexandra Orsola-Vidal, Yaniv Stopnitzky.
- ◆ Effects of Quality Health Care and Support Networks on Maternal and Children Outcomes in Uganda. Alessandra Cassar, Patricia Schneider and Emeka Ugwu.

**GRANTS:**

- ◆ 2018. Charles Koch Foundation grant titled: “Does Access to Improved Menstruation Technology (Reusable Pads) Affect Female Outcomes?” to support fieldwork in Sierra Leone.
- ◆ 2017. Charles Koch Foundation grant titled: “Improvement in Sanitary Products for Menstruation and Female Outcomes” to support fieldwork in Nepal.
- ◆ 2016. Charles Koch Foundation grant titled: “Improving Education in Disadvantaged Communities and Decreasing the Gender Gap” to support fieldwork in Colombia, Bosnia, and Togo.
- ◆ 2013. Levis Strauss Foundation grant for the project: “Financial Inclusion in a Developed Country: An Experiment about Formal Savings in Italy.”
- ◆ 2012. Charles Koch Foundation grant to support students’ research for a project in Zimbabwe and Zambia titled: “Managing Risk through Social Networks in Zimbabwe.”
- ◆ 2011. Grant from Title VIII/Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research for the project: “Culture, Institutions and Economic Exchange: Experimental evidence from Kosovo” in collaboration with Pauline Grosjean.
- ◆ 2010. Grant from Title VIII/Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research for “Democracy, Violence, Trust and Economic Preferences: An Empirical Investigation in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan” in collaboration with Pauline Grosjean.
- ◆ 2004-2008. Grant from the NSF (National Science Foundation) for “A Laboratory Investigation of Networked Markets.” Alessandra Cassar, Daniel Friedman and Patricia Higinio Schneider.
- ◆ REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) supplemental funds from National Science Foundation to support undergraduate students.
- ◆ 2004 – present. Funds from the University of San Francisco Faculty Development Funds.
- ◆ 2002. Grant from University of California, Santa Cruz for experiments on Social Networks in International Trade.
- ◆ 1998-1999. STAR and GSA research grant from University of California, Santa Cruz for experiments on Cooperation and Coordination with Local Interactions.

**MISCELLANEA:**

- ◆ “An Electronic Calendar Auction.” Alessandra Cassar and Daniel Friedman. White Paper commissioned by OneDayFree, 2000.
- ◆ *Modelli Teorici e Testi Empirici della Relazione tra Tassi di Cambio e Prezzi all'Esportazione.* Alessandra Cassar. 1996 Prize “Luigi Casati” by Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei for Best Undergraduate Thesis.

**DISSERTATION:**

Title: *Local, Random, and Small-World Networks: Economic Consequences for Coordination, Cooperation, and Contagion*. September 2001. Principal Advisor: Professor Daniel Friedman.

**SUMMER SCHOOLS:**

- ◆ **Santa Fe' Institute Summer Graduate Workshop**  
Summer 2010 - Invited lecturer at the Santa Fe' Institute Summer Graduate Workshop (on experimental methods and research on warfare and social preferences in children).  
Program Directors: John Miller and Scott Page.
- ◆ **Trento Summer School**  
Assistant lecturer at the Second Trento Summer School: Intensive Course in Experimental Economics. University of Trento, Italy, Summer 2001.  
Program Director: Axel Leijonhufvud. Director of the School: Daniel Friedman. Guest Lecturers: Massimo Egidi, Peter Howitt, Steffen Huck, Rosemarie Nagel and Reinhard Selten. Laboratory Director: Luigi Mittone.
- ◆ **Santa Fe' Institute.** 1999 Summer School in Computational Economics. Project: "Simulating Financial Crises in Local-Interactions Models of Artificial Economies."

**REVIEWER:**

American Economic Review; American Journal of Agricultural Economics; British Journal of Political Science; Computational & Mathematical Organization Theory; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Econometrica; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Experimental Economics; European Economic Review; Economic Inquiry; Economic Journal; Games and Economic Behavior; Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation; Journal of Business, Economics and Finance; Journal of Comparative Economics; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of International Economics; Journal of Legal Studies; Journal of Economic Geography; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Public Economics; Management Science; Nature; National Science Foundation; Oxford Economic Papers; PLOS One; Review of Economic Studies; Southern Economic Journal; Social Networks; World Bank Economic Review; World Development.

**FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS:**

- ◆ Dean Turpin Award for undergraduate research;
- ◆ University of California Postdoctoral Faculty Fellowship, June 2001 - June 2003;
- ◆ Fellowship "Romeo and Enrica Invernizzi Foundation," 1996;
- ◆ First Prize "Luigi Casati" for Best Undergraduate Thesis by Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, 1996;
- ◆ Fellowship from "Universita' degli Studi di Parma," 1995;
- ◆ Fellowship "O.N.A.O.S.I.," 1996-2000.

**TEACHING****COURSES TAUGHT AT UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO:**

- ◆ Graduate Seminar
- ◆ Economics as an Experimental Science
- ◆ Principles of Macroeconomics
- ◆ Economic Methods
- ◆ Mathematics for Economists

**COURSES TAUGHT AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ:**

- ◆ Economics and Management of Technology and Innovation
- ◆ Advanced Quantitative Methods
- ◆ Applied Econometric Analysis I

**THESIS ADVISING:**

Thesis advisor of:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Country</u>
Bethany Gerdermann	Preferences in Polygyny & Monogamy	Sierra Leone
Ashwini Shridhar	Menstruation management	Sierra Leone
Madison Levine	Menstruation management	Sierra Leone
Okkar Mandalay	Gender risk gap	Myanmar
Nneoma Nwobilor	Women empowerment program	Nigeria
Imuetinyan Aiguwurhuo	Women empowerment program	Nigeria
Emeka Ugwu	Maternal health and social networks	Uganda
Anjali Limbu	Menstruation management	Nepal
Theodore Wisinski	School incentives	Colombia
Daniel Salicath	School incentives	Colombia
Aminata Cissokho	Female competitiveness	Togo
Miranda Lambert	Female competitiveness	Colombia
Boris Jokic	Female competitiveness	Bosnia
Elnaz Safarha	School incentives for street children	Iran
Mwape Chalansi	Social networks & schooling	Zambia
Tobias Sytsma	Genetic markers risk tolerance	Bangladesh
Feven Wordofa	Gender difference in competition	China
Stephanie Chou	Gender difference in competition	China
Yilin Gao	Gender difference in competition	China
Jennifer Graham	Group & incentives for poverty reduction	Colombia
Paulina Aguinaga	Group & incentives for poverty reduction	Colombia
Lauren Skora	Group & incentives for poverty reduction	Colombia
Daniel McKay	Mafia & entrepreneurship	Italy
Bem Andzenge	Governance & trust	Italy
James Boyle	Income redistribution	Kosovo
Kyle Martin	Conflict & trust	Kosovo
Nicholas Weiss	Trust	Kosovo
Travis Wiggans	Markets	Kosovo
Alexandra Gosh	Civil war & trust	Tajikistan
Lexi Russell	Civil war & trust	Tajikistan

Deanna Karapetyan	Civil war & social preferences	Sierra Leone
Priyanka Talwar	Civil war & social preferences	Sierra Leone
Nathan Cutler	Micro-health insurance	Cambodia
Greg Donheiser	Micro-health insurance	Cambodia
Frank Hoffman	Micro-health insurance	Cambodia
Patrick Madigan	Micro-health insurance	Cambodia
Joshua Holtrust	Natural disaster & trust preferences	Thailand
Carl von Kessler	Natural disaster & risk time preferences	Thailand
Tuan Anh Phan	Natural disaster & risk preferences	Thailand
Bassel Zinaty	Natural disaster & time preferences	Thailand
Eliana Zeballos	Microfinance	Bolivia
Arturo Rodriguez	Microfinance	Bolivia
Jean Paul Petraud	Microfinance	India
Luke Crowley	Microfinance	Armenia
David M. Thompson	Microfinance	Guatemala
Oliver J. Trimiew	Microfinance	Kenya
Il Hong Yoo	Microfinance	Philippines
Gaute Farner	Female education	Egypt
Carolina Herrera	Displacement	South Africa
Katie Hubner	Rawls in field exp.	India & Panama
Leonard Kang	Trust games and group lending	Philippines
Rohit Kapuria	Governance	Nigeria
Lukas Musil	Subsidized housing	Czech Republic
Javier S. Ortiz	Corruption and stealing	Columbia
Rede Shifferaw	Medical doctors' brain drain	Ethiopia
Jessica Varney	Yield insurance	Peru
Jessica Zuzik	Children & Violence	Burkina Faso
Andrea Calabria	Regional growth	Italy

## **SERVICE**

### **SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS:**

- ◆ Organizer of the Economic Department Seminar Series, 2006-present;
- ◆ Member of the Economic Faculty Search Committee in 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2016-2017;
- ◆ Organizer of IDEC Oral Defenses, 2012-present;
- ◆ Reviewer for IDEC program, 2008-present;
- ◆ Contributor to external review document for the WASC accreditation process, 2013-2014;
- ◆ Co-coordinator for the drafting of the Department of Economics learning outcomes for the WASC accreditation process, 2004-2005;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Asst. Prof. Jesse Anttila-Hughes, 2012-present;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Asst. Prof. Pauline Grosjean, 2008-2011;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Asst. Prof. Jennifer Alix-Garcia, 2007-2009;
- ◆ Faculty mentor to Adj. Prof. Seema Arora, 2008-2009;
- ◆ Faculty supervisor of the Experimental Economics Club, 2006;

### **SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE:**

- ◆ Committee member in the Internationalization Task Force FABI
- ◆ Committee member of Student Research and Scholarly Activity Committee
- ◆ Organizer of the Day of Celebration of Students' Research and Artistic and Scholarly Creative Activity 2011-present (CARD – Creative Activity and Research Day);
- ◆ Co-Chair of the Academic Excellence Task Force on student research, 2012-present;
- ◆ Co-chair Undergraduate Research Committee, 2010-2012;
- ◆ University of San Francisco team member for CUR (Council on Undergraduate Research). Initial meeting at California State University, Northridge; 15-17 February 2008. 2008-2010;

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:**

- ◆ Member of the Executive Committee of the Economic Science Association (ESA).
- ◆ Founder in 2009 of the networking group of BAEBE - experimental and behavioral economists of the Bay Area (comprised of experimentalists from University of San Francisco, UC Berkely, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Clara University, San Francisco State University, Stanford); Member of the scientific committee for the yearly BABEEW - Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop:
  - UC Santa Cruz, May 2010
  - UC Berkeley, May 2011
  - Santa Clara University, May 2012
  - University of San Francisco, May 2013



- Stanford University, May 2014
- University of California, Santa Cruz, May 2015
- UC Berkeley, May 2016
- Santa Clara University, May 2017
- University of San Francisco, May 2018
- ◆ Member of the Fulbright U.S. Student National Screening Committee;
- ◆ IAREP-SABE-ICABEEP grant to finance the 2013 Bay Area Behavioral Economics Workshop at University of San Francisco;
- ◆ Ph.D. Committee Member for Giorgia Barboni (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna);
- ◆ Reviewer (see under Research).

**SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY:**

- ◆ Organizer of the USF Italian Faculty and Staff Cineclub;
- ◆ Special events organizer for DIVE (Donne Italiane che Vivono all'Estero – Italian Women Who Live Abroad).